

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6-11, 13 and 14 have been examined. Claims 1, 6, 8-11 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Also, the Examiner has indicated that claims 7 and 14 contain allowable subject matter.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Yano, U.S. Patent No. 4,821,869 to Hodlewsky (“Hodlewsky”) and U.S. Patent No. 1,769,546 to Ritchey (“Ritchey”)

The Examiner has again rejected claims 1, 6, 8-11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yano in view of Hodlewsky and Ritchey.

A. Claims 1 and 6

By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 1 and 6 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1 and 6 is now moot.

B. Claims 8-10

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended the dependency of claim 8 so that it depends upon allowable claim 7. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 8-10 is now moot.

C. Claims 11 and 13

By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 11 and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 11 and 13 is now moot.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

As set forth above, the Examiner has indicated that claims 7 and 14 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, Applicant has rewritten claims 7 and 14 into independent form. Accordingly, claims 7-10 and 14 are now in condition for allowance.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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